

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026513
ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 OES-07 EB-08 AID-05 FDRE-00 SP-02 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

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BEIRUT FOR AMBASSADOR AND AIDREP;DAMASCUS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAID

SUBJECT: FY 1978 P.L. 480 TITLE I PROGRAM

REF: (A) BEIRUT 0387; (B) DAMASCUS 0306; (C) BEIRUT 0096

1. RE REF (C), LETTERS OF CONDITIONAL REIMBURSEMENT HAVE NOT BEEN USED UNDER THE P.L. 480 TITLE I PROGRAM FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. BEFORE WE CAN AUTHORIZE TITLE I NEGOTIATIONS, IT IS NECESSARY TO PRESENT A PROGRAM TO THE INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE (ISC) FOR APPROVAL AND THEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 026513

CARRY OUT THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS AND OBTAIN NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (NAC) CLEARANCE. THIS PROCESS NORMALLY TAKES A MINIMUM OF THREE TO FOUR WEEKS.

2. RE THE SIZE/COMPOSITION OF A POSSIBLE TITLE I PROGRAM, THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS WHY A PROGRAM LEVEL OF 100,000 MT OF WHEAT IS NOT FEASIBLE.

A. THIS FY A PROGRAM FOR LEBANON IS SUBJECT TO THE 75/25 REQUIREMENTS OF P.L. 480. THIS REQUIREMENT STATES 75 PER CENT OF FOOD COMMODITIES MUST BE PROGRAMMED TO COUNTRIES HAVING A PER CAPITA GNP OF DOLS 550 OR LESS. LAST FY THE LEBANON PROGRAM WAS JUSTIFIED ON AN EXCEPTION TO THIS REQUIREMENT WHICH CANNOT BE APPLIED TO LEBANON THIS FY. THE P.L. 480 TITLE I FY 1978 ALLOCATIONS TABLE SUBMITTED TO

CONGRESS ON DECEMBER 31, 1977 CONTAINED 41,000 MT OF WHEAT AND RICE AND TOBACCO (A NON-FOOD COMMODITY WHICH DOESN'T AFFECT THE 75/25 SPLIT AND CAN THEREFORE BE PROGRAMMED TO A 25 PER CENT GROUP COUNTRY TO RAISE THE DOLLAR LEVEL). YOU HAVE ADVISED US, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOL WOULD PREFER ONLY WHEAT.

B. THE DOLLAR LEVEL FOR LEBANON CONTAINED IN THE AFOREMENTIONED TABLE IS DOLS 7.7 MILLION, WHICH, AT CURRENT PRICES WOULD PURCHASE FAR LESS THAN 100,000 MT.

3. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE ABOVE FACTORS, WE BELIEVE THE MAXIMUM PROGRAM OF WHEAT FOR LEBANON WOULD BE 50,000 MT OR APPROXIMATELY DOLS 5.8 MILLION.

4. HOWEVER, THE DATA SUPPLIED REF (B) DOES NOT SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF EVEN THAT SIZE. THE DATA INDICATES THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 026513

THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF COMMERCIAL IMPORTS BY THE GOL OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS BEEN 300,000 MT PER YEAR. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS THE GOL USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT. P.L. 480 REQUIRES THAT EACH TITLE I AGREEMENT CONTAIN PROVISIONS WHICH REQUIRE THE IMPORTING COUNTRY TO IMPORT COMMERCIAL (IN ADDITION TO ANY P.L. 480 OR OTHER CONCESSIONAL COMMODITIES) THE AMOUNT REPRESENTED BY THEIR USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT. REF (B) INDICATES THE GOL'S TOTAL 77/78 COMMERCIAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS ARE LESS THAN THE 300,000 MT FIGURE, WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT CONCESSIONAL SALES ARE NOT POSSIBLE.

5. IT IS POSSIBLE THROUGH THIRD COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS WITH NORMAL COMMERCIAL SUPPLIERS TO LEBANON TO MODIFY THE USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT FIGURE. IN ORDER TO DETERMINE HERE IN WASHINGTON EXACTLY HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH A PROGRAM FOR THE GOL, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A. WHY DO THE WHEAT S/D TABLES SHOW NO EEC IMPORTS (CONCESSIONAL OR COMMERCIAL)? WE UNDERSTAND THERE HAVE BEEN BOTH.

B. HOW DOES A FIGURE OF 72,000 MT CONCESSIONAL WHEAT
IMPORTS IN 77/78 SUPPORT A 100,000 MT PROGRAM REQUEST?

C. IS CANADIAN 175,000 MT WHEAT (REF (C) PARA 2.B. -
FORECAST FOR 1978) ALL COMMERCIAL?

6. WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF A P.L. 480 PROGRAM
FOR LEBANON AS EVIDENCE OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE
GOL. QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER WE WILL HAVE A PROGRAM

TO OFFER, BUT WHAT SIZE PROGRAM CAN BE JUSTIFIED. VANCE

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